

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MINAKO KATO) : Examiner: B. Menberu
Application No.: 10/656,103) : Group Art Unit: 2625
Filed: September 8, 2003) : Confirmation No.: 7041
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD) : February 25, 2010
AND IMAGE OUTPUT SYSTEM :
:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Sir:

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward his representative during the telephone interview of February 24, 2010. The interview focused primarily on independent Claim 25 and U.S. Patent No. 5,982,990, to Gondek.

All of the independent claims, i.e., Claims 25, 30, 44, 49, 53 and 54, currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Gotoh '196, Gondek '990, and Velde '438.

As discussed in the interview, the image processing apparatus set forth in Claim 25 can operate in a first mode, outputting only a dark color, and in a second mode, outputting a dark color and a light color, as illustrated, for example, in Figure 11. In the first mode, a first unit converts primary color data into color data for outputting the dark color material only, wherein the primary color has any two of maximum values and one of minimum values of colors R, G and B. In the second mode, a second unit converts the primary color data into color data for outputting both the dark color material and the light color material. As also claimed, the color

data converted from the primary color data in the second mode is color data for outputting both the dark color material corresponding to a complementary color of the minimum value of colors and light ink material other than the complementary color of the minimum value of colors.

As explained during the interview, the primary color data in Gondek, based on Figure 3, should be taken from $(R, G, B) = (8,8,0) (8,0,8) (0,8,8)$. And based on the conversion table in columns 7 and 8 of Gondek, light color materials are not output in each case of (R, G, B) corresponding to a primary color.

The Examiner tentatively agreed with these technical comments regarding Gondek, and indicated that further consideration with respect to the outstanding rejection is in order.

It is further submitted that the deficiencies in Gondek with respect to each independent claim are not compensated for by Gotoh or Velde.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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